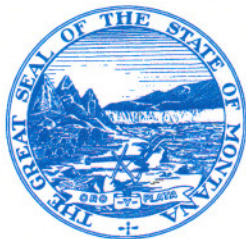


DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



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October 28, 2009

Dear Colleague:

We are pleased to present to you this publication of the **2009 Montana County Health Profiles**. The Public Health and Safety Division updates the *Profiles* on a regular basis based on the most recent available data. The *Profiles* provide the Department of Health and Human Services and its community partners county-level data for identifying health needs, establishing plans, and evaluating programs. The introductory section, "Definitions, Sources and Data Use Notes," defines the indicators and sources of the data presented herein. I encourage you to refer to this section often when using the county health profiles.

Based on the recommendations of data users, some changes were made to the county health templates in this edition. Some indicators were determined to be unreliable estimates at the county level and others were found to be consistently reported in other state documents. In the 2009 edition, we have, as in 2006, included a two-page "American Indian Health Profile" in an effort to help describe Montana's largest minority population. In addition, a two-page "Montana and the United States Profile" has been included to allow further county, state, and national comparisons on the various demographic, health status and health resource indicators. Revisions of the *Profiles* will continue to be on-going as valid and reliable data are made available. We want the *Profiles* to be as useful as possible and welcome all comments and suggestions for continued improvement.

The Public Health and Safety Division of DPHHS, 1400 Broadway, B102, Helena, MT 59620, maintains and distributes the County Health Profiles as reference documents. Individual county health profiles as separate .pdf files are available on the DPHHS Health Data and Statistical Information website at <http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/statisticalinformation/index.shtml> or hardcopies can be obtained by calling (406) 444-7374.

We hope that you will find this report useful in helping you plan and execute your public health activities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in brown ink, reading "A. Sorrell".

Anna Whiting Sorrell,
DPHHS Director